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Message Text

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11
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 /097 W
---------- 018060
R 051530Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5241
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 0526

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR PFOR MO SS OAU
SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIAN REACTION TO OAU MEETING

1. MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS PRAISED HANDLING OF WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE BY OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS IN NOUAKCHOTT MARCH 3 FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM ADDIS ABABA, MOUKNASS DESCRIBED POLISARIO AS "SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENT, A POLITICAL OPPOSITION MOVEMENT DIRECTED BY ARMCHAIR MERCENARIES OF MAURITANIAN AND MOROCCAN NATIONALITY." MOUKNASS NOTED THAT MAURITANIAN AND MOROCCAN DELEGATIONS EMPHASIZED AT MEETING THAT ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE FACED WITH POLITICAL OPPOSITION FROM OUTISDE. CERTAIN OF THESE OPPOSITION GROUPS ARE FINANCED AND DIRECTED BY CERTAIN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY ALGERIA WHICH WANTS TO CONTINUE TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR AGAINST SPECIFIC COUNTRIES.

2. MOUKNASS COMMENTED THAT FOLLOWING DEBATES ON SAHARA QUESTION BY OAU POLITICAL COMMITTEE, TWENTY-THREE OF FORTY-SEVEN MEMBER
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NATIONS CAME OD EGUHER AGAINST RECOGNITION OF THIS "PHONY

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MOVEMENT" OR AGAINST RECOGNITION PENDING MORE PERSUASIVE JUSTIFICATION.

3. EXPLAINING THAT OAU DECIDED TO LEAVE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF SAHARAN ENTITY TO EACH COUNTRY, MOUKNASS CONCLUDED THAT "NO ONE CAN IGNORE OR CONTEST THAT DECISION TAKEN BY OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS A WISE DECISION, WHICH REINFORCES UNITY AND VIABILITY OF OUR ORGANIZATION." HE ADDED THAT MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO CAN ONLY REJOICE AT THESE RESULTS.

4. MOUKNASS SAID LIFE IS RETURNING TO NORMAL IN WADI DHEHAB, ADDING THAT TASK BEFORE MAURITANIA TODAY IS TO SET FORTH GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN THIS NORTHERN REGION. HE ASSURED "EACH MAURITANIAN AND EACH MAURITANIAN OF WADI DHEHAB" THAT HONORABLE CONDITIONS WILL BE GUARANTEED FOR HARMONIOUS INTEGRATION OF WADI DHEHAB INTO MAURITANIA.

5. REFERRING TO DIGNIFIED SPANISH DEPARTURE FROM WESTERN SAHARA, MOUKNASS ASSURED "GREAT SPANISH PEOPLE AND ITS GOVERNMENT OF THE SINCERE FRIENDSHIP OF MAURITANIA'S PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT." HE ADDED THAT "A GREAT ERA OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND RESPECT IS OPENING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AND MAURITANIA, AS FAR AS IT IS CONCERNED, PLACES ITSELF IN THIS PERSPECTIVE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH SPAIN."HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NOUAKC00526
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760086-0190
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760390/aaaadbrz.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIAN REACTION TO OAU MEETING
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, MO, SS, OAU, POLISARIO, (MOUKNASS, HAMDI OULD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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